

## ROMANCE OF COLUMBIA NEGROES WHO HAVE MADE GOOD

**T**HE romance of negro characters did not end with the death of Uncle Tom of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Indeed, the story of the characters found in Columbia alone would fill several books.

Most famous of its negro citizens is Blind Boone, the musician. Blind Boone was born March 26, 1864, in a Federal camp near Miami, Mo. His parents were of the humblest. His mother was "Aunt" Rachael Anderson, an army cook. In the days of slavery Boone and his mother belonged to the old Shannon family of Columbia. Boone was blind from birth.

He showed his soul for music when he was very young. His first musical instrument was a tin whistle. After serving as cook, Boone's mother took him to live at Warrensburg. Here Boone would often creep up to Senator Cockrell's house to listen to Mrs. Cockrell play on the piano. Several women took an interest in him. Realizing his disadvantages, they placed him in the Institute for the Blind at Nineteenth and Morgan streets, St. Louis. Here Blind Boone soon found a piano. He spent all his time playing on it, and refused to do the work assigned to him. This was his undoing. He was put out and had to find his way about the city unaided.

Perhaps here begins the romantic history of the great master of harmony as a real student of music and not a mere imitator.

Starving Boone was found by Joe Perry, a conductor on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and taken to his mother. Home again, Boone organized a musical company. It consisted of four pieces—the tambourine, French harp, fife and triangles. The company toured Iowa. Soon, broke and in trouble, they returned to Warrensburg. This was in 1877.

### Lang's Part in His Success.

Shortly after this Boone met John Lang, a successful negro contractor. Lang was 42 years old. His mother was an old slave of James Shannon, former president of the University. Lang, a man of good character and business sense, had saved several thousand dollars, besides owning a house. He heard Boone play. Seeing vast business possibilities in Boone's talent, Lang offered his entire fortune for the care and education of Boone. The arrangement was legally drawn up. Lang staked everything he had. His reward was to be one-half of the future concert receipts.

His friends thought he was crazy. However, in less than six months, he had more than doubled his investment. Lang is still Boone's manager. All the following years were not money makers. Often they were broke and played for anyone for a few cents. In those days Boone played for the school children and other visitors who came to his home.

Boone and Lang are now rich. Boone owns his house on Fourth street, Columbia. It is a brick building, and may well be called the House of Pianos. There are six pianos there, including his favorite, a Chickering, a magnificent instrument.

Boone has been recognized by well-known musicians. January 28, 1893,

Boone met and played for Ovid Musin, the French violinist. The noted organist, Edward Vaile McIntyre of St. Louis, played for Boone in the First Presbyterian Church of that city. Later Boone reproduced note by note the selection played.

Boone is also a musical critic. He has read and studied the lives and methods of the great musicians. His studies along this line began one evening when Shannon Mountjoy of Columbia, a grandson of Boone's old master, read to him an article on Wagner. Since then Boone has kept a reader, who is also a translator, to read and translate into English all musical articles and histories.

Boone loves to travel and to spend his money. He is at present on a concert tour through Iowa. He has a childish delight in buying things. All his friends have received gifts of value from him. He is generous and charitable, and contributes liberally to funds for worthy purposes.

### Henry Kirklin, Famous Gardener.

"Land, Miss, I can't tell you all nothing. I got to get this here fire made for Litany services."

Henry Kirklin, a sturdy negro, industriously swept the service room of the Episcopal Church. To watch him one would think that good janitor service was Henry's life ambition. However, that is merely a side issue. Henry is a highly successful gardener.

When he was about 20 years old, he began his study of earth and plants

while working on the University horticultural grounds. He saved his wages and bought a house. Soon he acquired a small plot of land and started his garden. It was a small garden. He peddled his products from door to door in a wheelbarrow.

Henry has been a gardener for a quarter of a century. He now owns three and a half acres of the most productive land in the state. His success has been due to his native good sense, his skill with plants and his conscientiousness. His education was meager. He has no scientific knowledge of the care of plants except that learned through experience. However, he knows plants and their needs thoroughly.

Classes in horticulture of the University go out during the season to see Henry's garden and profit by a study of his methods. The state has recognized his success in gardening, and he is employed to give lectures to people of his race throughout the state. The results have been excellent.

The Lincoln Institute for negroes at Jefferson City offered Henry a position as teacher. He refused it because he did not want to give up his work in his garden. Frequently, though, he goes to the Dalton Institute to lecture.

One of the rewards of Henry's success as a gardener was at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904, when he received a medal for prize vegetables and strawberries. The exhibit includ-

ed the products of both white men and negroes.

Henry Kirklin is now a well-to-do man. He has given his children a good education. He is one of Columbia's best citizens.

### Turner, Civil War Veteran.

There are others that should make Columbia proud of its negro citizenship. "Sergeant" Turner, janitor of Switzler Hall, makes the wheels go round at the University. Turner's pride is to start the student world each morning by ringing the 7 o'clock bell—and at evening to stop its whirl with the 5 o'clock bell.

Twenty-two years ago Turner began to work for the University. He was born in Columbia, and before the war belonged to the Haydon family. J. W. Haydon and his sister "Miss Samie," now living at Windsor, Mo., are the two remaining members of the family.

In 1863 Turner enlisted at the Benton Barracks in St. Louis. He served in the Kentucky Volunteers during the Civil War. He was discharged in 1866 in Washington, but reenlisted in the Tenth Cavalry, U. S. A. Turner says he had many thrilling escapes. Once he was tomahawked by Indians on the arm, and in 1877 he lost his arm in a battle with Indians near the Rio Grande River.

Turner came back to Columbia in 1885. He worked for the McAfee family for six years, and then began his present service at the University.

### Jim Williams' Success.

And everyone knows Jim Williams, the negro barber. Jim is about 60 years old now. He began as a boot-black in the barber shop of Jacob Selinger. After working here a number of years, Jim went into business for himself with another negro.

Jim is known to hundreds of former students of the University. He is proud of the students he shaved who have since become noted men of the state and the country. Jim's barber shop ranks among the best negro shops in the country. He has made his success by attending strictly to business, by being honest and obliging. He is a good church member and a Mason, and is always ready to take part in bettering the negro citizenship of Columbia.

Jim has several children to whom he has given an education. He has a daughter who is teaching at the Lincoln Institute.

### THE MUNSTERBERG VIEW

Prof. Hugo Munsterberg said at the German-American Chamber of Commerce in New York:

"It is no wonder England has so many colonies. Look how she got them! It's the system!"

"England, you know, would send an expedition headed by a missionary to some outlandish tropical place or other. The missionary would disembark on the white beach. He would gather the natives together under a palm, and, holding up his hand, he would say:

"Let us pray."

"Then, while all the natives had their eyes shut in pious prayer, up would go the English flag."

## MEN ARE SCHOLARS, TOO

**S**TATISTICS disprove the assertion sometimes heard that the women are almost monopolizing membership in Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Missouri. While the proportion of men to women initiated varies greatly from year to year, in the long run the two sexes come out about even. The women have a slight lead; in thirteen years, ninety-two women undergraduates have been elected and eighty-eight men.

The chapter at the University of Missouri is the Alpha chapter. Undergraduates were first elected to it in 1902. Prof. G. B. Colburn is the secretary of the chapter.

According to the rules of the society, regular members are elected only from the senior class of the College of Arts and Science. The first five are elected in December. Last year two men and three women were chosen. The rest will be selected from the graduating class in June. The

number selected then varies from year to year according to the scholarship

of the class, and increases with the growth of the college.

The total number elected each year, including the first five, must be from one-seventh to one-fifteenth of the whole senior academic class.

The composition of the first five has varied from five men in 1902 to five women, in 1908. The proportion is usually fairly stable, with three of one sex and two of the other.

The total number taken in has increased from ten in 1902 to twenty-three in 1914.

The totals by years since 1902 are as follows:

1902—6 men, 4 women, total 10.
1903—6 men, 4 women, total 10.
1904—5 men, 3 women, total 8.
1905—8 men, 3 women, total 11.
1906—4 men, 5 women, total 9.
1907—6 men, 5 women, total 11.
1908—3 men, 9 women, total 12.
1909—10 men, 9 women, total 19.
1910—9 men, 10 women, total 19.
1911—9 men, 6 women, total 15.
1912—4 men, 10 women, total 14.
1913—7 men, 12 women, total 19.
1914—11 men, 12 women, total 23.

The scholarship percentage required for admittance the last few years has been 116 and over. The highest percentage possible is 130. The highest percentage ever obtained at the University of Missouri is 128. This was made by Margaret B. McElroy last session and by Chester R. Longwell this session.

